

THE
Catechism

OR,

BRIEF INSTRUCTION

In the

Faith

AND

Order

Of the Gospel.

For the

CHURCH of CHRIST.

Meeting at

Horsly-Down in Southwark.

I JOHN II.

I have written unto you Fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you Young Men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one: I have written unto you, Little Children, because your sins are forgiven you for his Name sake, and ye have known the Father.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the Use of the Church. 1700.

CONFESSIONS

OF THE

THESE are the words of the Lord which are written in the book of the law of the Lord.

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THE
CONTENTS
OF THE
Catechism.

THIS *Catechism* contains *Seven Lessons* which by degrees lead into the Knowledge of the Truth as it is in JESUS:

The *First Lesson* opens with a *Discovery of God*; that his Awe may be upon the Heart:

The *Second Lesson* speaks of the *Decrees of God*, and his *Creation*; that in some measure they may be understood: Afterwards

The *Third Lesson* makes known the *Fall of Man*; with the *Bitter Fruits* of it, to humble and abase the heart before God; And then in

The *Fourth Lesson*; Comfort is administred from the Glad Tidings of *Redemption* by the Person of *Christ*: And that this Salvation may not only be heard of, but felt

The *Fifth Lesson* explains the *Manner of the Application of this Redemption* by Faith to the Soul;

Soul; which savingly experienc'd, will draw forth Desires to understand

The *Sixth Lesson*, In which the good Old *Law* and *Gospel* of God are briefly cleared up, and *distinguish*; the good knowledge whereof will lead down to

The *Seventh* and last *Lesson*, containing some Light about *The great Duty of glorifying God in his Churches*, which hereafter (if God will) may be more fully Explain'd: This great Duty *all* Christians should covet to understand, since in the *Church* only can they give most Glory to Christ, and partake most of his Glory in this Life; And thro' these *Gates of Heaven*, upright Souls have an abundant Entrance administred to them into the Eternal Joy of their Lord and Master; with a brief Account whereof the *Catechism* concludes.

The *Former Part* of the *Catechism* contains those Truths that are more generally receiv'd, which are given in shorter *Lessons*, and shorter *Answers*, as *Milk for Babes*: By the good Digestion of which the Capacity will be enlarg'd to receive the Truths that follow, which are contain'd in larger *Lessons*, and longer *Answers*, that the Truth might be kept in an *intire Proposition*, and not mangled by many *Questions*; and for this there was a more *special* Necessity in the instruction about *glorifying God in his Churches*; Which is the *strong meat* belonging to them that are of more *full age*, who by reason of Use have their Sences exercis'd to discern both good and evil: Upon this *strong meat* the *spiritual man* will heartily feed; for only *Babes* and *carnal* feed altogether upon *Milk*.

The First Lesson. of GOD.

Question 1.

WHAT are You?

Answer.

By Nature I am a poor lost Sinner
against God.

Rom. 3. 9, 10 20.
Eph. 2. 1. 3. 12.

Question 2. What is God?

Answer. GOD is the Eternal,
Almighty Spirit, who made All things
by His Power, and orders All things by
His Providence, whom no Man hath
seen, or can see.

John 4. 24.
Rom. 1. 20.
Isa. 44. 24.
Dan. 4. 35.
1 Tim. 6. 16.

Question 3. How then shall we know God?

Answer. GOD is known partly by
Conscience within us; and by his Works
without us; But more fully by his
Written Word.

Rom. 1. 19, 20.
Psal. 19. all.
Psal. 138. 2.

Question 4. How shall we know God Conscience within us?

Answer. GOD hath shown all Men
somewhat of Himself by Natural Reason,
and Conscience, within them; witnessing
(tho' darkly) that there is a Just and
Holy God.

Rom. 2. 14, 15.
Prov. 20. 27.
Rom. 1. 21.

Question 5. *How do the Works of God make him known?*

Answer. The Heavens, the Earth, the Seas, and *all* things therein, shew forth the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of GOD the Maker of all, so that *All* are without Excuse.

Psal. 8. all.
Fer. 10. 12.
Acts 14. 17.
Rom, 1. 20.

Question 6. *How doth the Written Word reveal God more clearly?*

Answer. The Written Word of God reveals, That there are *Three* in Heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these *Three* are *One* Living and True GOD, whose Name alone is *JEHOVAH*, and *all* other Gods are Idols.

1 John 5. 7.
Ilsa. 43. 10, 11.
1 Thess. 1. 9.
Psal. 83. 18. &
Psal. 96. 5.
1 Cor. 8. 4. 6.

Question 7. *How can it be that there are Three Persons in the Godhead, and yet but ONE God?*

Answer. 'Tis impossible for any Man to comprehend the unsearchable Mystery of the *Trinity* in *Unity*, or *Three* Persons in the Godhead: We should therefore readily believe whatsoever GOD reveals of Himself in His Word, since none in *all* his *Creation* can find him out to Perfection!

Job 11. 7, 8. 9.
36. 26.
37. 19, 23,
24.
Prov. 30. 4, 5.
2 Chro. 20. 20.

The Second Lesson

About the Decrees and Creation.

Question 1.

WHY did God create all things?

Answer.

GOD the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed and Happy in the Enjoyment of Himself from all Eternity, Decreed to Create all things, to show forth his Glory in Christ Jesus.

*Isa. 57. 15.
1 Tim. 6. 16.
Col. 1. 16.
Rev. 4. 11.*

Question 2. What are God's Eternal Decrees?

Answer. GOD's Eternal Decrees are his Purpose, and his Counsel in himself, before any thing was, fore-ordaining all Persons and Things that ever should be.

*Acts 15. 18.
17. 26.
Isa. 14. 24.
46. 10.*

Question 3. When did God make all things?

Answer. In the beginning God created the Heaven, the Earth, the Seas, and all things therein in Six Days.

*Gen. 1. 1. 9,
10, 31.*

Question 4. Of what did God make all things?

Answer. GOD made all things of Nothing, so that the things which are seen, were not made of things which do appear.

*Job 26. 7.
Heb. 11. 3.*

Question 5. *How did God create all things?*

Answer. GOD created all things by his Son Jesus Christ, whom he appointed Lord and Heir of all.

John 1. 3.
Heb. 1. 2, 10.
Col. 1. 16.

Question. 6. *In what State did God make all things?*

Answer. GOD made Angels and Man, and all things very good.

Gen. 1. 27. 31.
Echl. 7. 29.

Question 7. *What are Angels?*

Answer. Angels are Ministring Spirits, mighty in Strength, to wait about the Throne of GOD, and to do all his Commands.

Heb. 1. 7. 14.
Psal. 103. 20.
104. 4.

Question 8. *What Creature is Man?*

Answer. GOD form'd Man of the Dust of the ground, and gave him an immortal Soul; so God created Man in his own Image, upright, Male and Female Created he them, and they were call'd Adam and Eve.

Gen. 2. 7.
Matth. 10. 28.
Gen. 1. 27.
Echl. 7. 29.
Gen. 3. 20.

Question 9. *What did God do with Man when he made him?*

Answer. The Lord God took Man, and put him into the Garden of Eden, and gave him a Law *, forbidding him to eat of the Tree of Knowledge; for in the day he eat thereof he should surely die.

Gen. 2. 8. 16, 17
* Note, 'Twas a Law given to Man, not a Covenant of Works made with Man.

The Third Lesson.

About the Fall, and the Fruits of it.

Question 1.

HOW long did Man continue Upright?
Answer.

Man that was in Honour, abode not for a Night, but by sinning against God, fell from his Innocency and Uprightness.

Pf. 49. 12. Heb. Gen. 3. 6. Eccl. 7. 29.

Question 2, *How came Man to fall by Sin?*

Answer. Man being left to the Freedom of his own Will, fell into Sin thro' the Temptation of that old Serpent, the Devil, in transgressing the Law giv'n him by God.

Ge. 3. 6, 7, 8, 13 John 8. 44.

Question 3. *What Creature is the Devil?*

Answer. The Devil was once an Angel of Light, but rebelling against GOD, and drawing other Angels with him, they were all condemn'd into Hell for their Pride; and now these Devils go about as roaring Lions seeking whom they may devour.

Job 4. 18. 2 Pet. 2. 4. Jude 6. 1 Tim. 3. 6. 1 Pet. 5. 8.

Question

Question 4. *What was that Sin by which the Devil tempted Man to fall from God?*

Gen. 3. 1. to 7.
1 Tim. 2. 14.
2 Cor. 11. 3.

Answer. The Devil in the Serpent tempted the Woman to eat of the forbidden fruit, and She, being first deceiv'd, tempted her Husband to eat with her, by which they both fell from God.

Question 5. *What follow'd Man's falling from God?*

Gen. 2. 17.
3. 16. 19.
Rom. 5. 12.
8. 22.

Answer. Adam and Eve falling from GOD, receiv'd the Sentence of Death, that is, dreadful Misery to themselves, to their Posterity, and to all the Creation subjected to them.

Question 6. *What special Misery came on Adam and Eve by the Fall?*

Rom. 3. 24.
Gen. 3. 7, 10.
16.
19.
23.
24.

Answer. As soon as Adam and Eve fell they died *spiritually*, that is, they lost the Image of GOD in their Souls, and they saw that they were *Naked*, or expos'd to all manner of Death, and were driven out of *Paradise*.

Question 7. *What Misery came on Adams Posterity by his Fall?*

1 Co. 15. 21, 22
Rom. 5. 12, 14,
17, 18.

Answer. All Mankind being the Sons and Daughters of Adam, and in his Loins, sinn'd in him, and so Death past upon them all, therefore all are born in *spirituall* Death, under the Sentence of *eternal* Death, and undergo the *natural* death of the Body.

Question

Question 8. *I find then that the death of the Body is the fruit of Sin; But what is that spiritual Death all are born in?*

Answer. The spiritual death all are born in, is the loss of God's Image in the Soul, all being conceiv'd in Sin, and born without any Righteousness, full of all evil, having their minds blinded, their Consciences defil'd, their Hearts harden'd, their Wills corrupted, their Affections perverted, and going astray from the Womb; and all this is call'd Original Sin.

Rom. 3. 9, 19.
Psal. 51. 5.
Rom. 3. 10, 14.
Ephef. 4. 18.
Titus 1. 15.
Zech. 7. 12.
Titus 3. 3.
Psalms 58. 3.

Question 9. *What is that Eternal Death to which all are expos'd?*

Answer. All the Children of Adam by Nature are born under the Sentence of Eternal Death, which is, being separated from GOD for ever in Hell; this all deserve, and would feel, if the Lord had not chosen in Christ a remnant, to escape the Wrath to come.

Rom. 3. 9.
with 6. 23.
Rom. 5. 12, 14.
Isa. 1. 9.
Rom. 9. 29.
11. 5, 7.
1 Thess. 5. 9.

Question 10. *What Misery came on the rest of the Creation by Adam's Fall?*

Answer. The Ground was cursed for Adam's sake, and so brings forth Briars and Thorns; yea, because of this the whole Creation groaneth.

Gen. 3. 17, 18.
Rom. 8. 20, 22.

Question 11. *Can any Man help himself out of this miserable State?*

Answer. There is no Man can by any Means redeem his own Soul, nor give to GOD a Ransom for himself, or for any of the Creation from this dreadful Misery.

Psal. 49. 7, 8.
Hosea 13. 9.

The

The Fourth Lesson

About Redemption by the Person of CHRIST.

Question 1.

DID God leave all Men in this miserable condition to perish for ever?

Answer. GOD did not leave all Men to perish in their Misery, but presently upon *Adam's* Fall, reveal'd to him Salvation by *Jesus Christ*, the Seed of the Woman.

Gen. 3. 8, 15.
with Heb. 2. 14, 16.

Question 2. Who is *Jesus Christ*?

Answer. *Jesus Christ* is the only Begotten Son of God, God and Man in One Person, the only Saviour of Sinners.

John 3. 16.
1 Tim. 3. 16.
Matth. 1. 21, 23

Question 3. How can *Jesus Christ* be God and Man in One Person?

Answer. This is the great Mystery of Godliness, that *Jesus Christ* being Very God took on him the Nature of Man, yet without Sin, and so in One Person is both God and Man.

1 Tim. 3. 16.
Heb. 2. 14.
7. 26.
Matth. 1. 23.

Question 4. How did *Jesus Christ* the Son of God take our Nature upon him?

Answer. The Holy Spirit overshadowing the *Virgin Mary*, she conceiv'd, and that Holy Thing that was Born of her in

Luke 1. 35.
Matth. 1. 18.
2. 1.

in *Bethlehem* in *Judea*, was *Jesus Christ* the Son of the Most High God !

Luke 1. 32.

Question 5. *Why was Jesus Christ Born into the World?*

Answer. *Jesus Christ* came into the World to save Sinners, as being *Mediatour* between God and Men.

1 Tim. 1. 15.
2. 5.

Question 6. *How doth Jesus Christ save Sinners?*

Answer. *Jesus Christ* saves Sinners freely by his Grace, without any Conditions or Qualifications done by them, he being the only *Priest* to atone for them, by the Sacrifice of himself; the true *Prophet* to teach them by his Word and Spirit; by which also as *King* he Rules them.

Ephes. 2. 8.
Titus 3. 4, 5.
2 Tim. 1. 9.
Isa. 52. 3.
Heb. 7. 24, 25.
Acts 3. 20, 26.
Psalms 110. all
and 2. 2, 6.

Question 7. *How is Jesus Christ Mediatour between God and Men?*

Answer. *Jesus Christ* is the *Mediatour* between God and Men, as he makes up the Breach between an offended God, and offending Men, according to the Everlasting Covenant of Grace.

Heb. 9. 14, 15.
Eph. 2. 13, 16.

Question 8. *What is th: Everlasting Covenant of Grace?*

Answer. The Covenant of Grace is the Eternal Agreement of the Father with the Son, in which the Father on the part of the Godhead promis'd to the Son, Eternal Life for all the Elect, upon his

Psal. 89. 3.
28 to 38.
Isa. 53. 10, 11.
Psal. 40. 6, 8.

Isa. 26. 12.

his performing *all* Conditions, *for* and *in* them that shall be sav'd.

Question 9. *But is not the Covenant of Grace made with Men?*

Answer. The Covenant of Grace is made only with Jesus Christ as the Head and Representative of the Elect, *to* whom, when they believe, 'tis made over as a *Promise* in a gracious Church-Covenant; founded upon it, and made with the Saints *before* Christ came in the flesh; and since by him renew'd to the Church, and their Seed; which is call'd the *first* and *second* Covenant.

Zeek. 9. 11.

Isa. 42. 6.

Eph. 1. 10.

Isa. 55. 1, 3.

Ezek. 16. 6.

Psal. 50. 5.

Jer. 31. 31, 33.

Heb. 8. 6; 13.

Question 10. *But are not Men to perform some of the Conditions of the Covenant of Grace?*

Answer. No Man can perform *anyone* Condition of the Covenant for Salvation; Jesus Christ doth all *for* his People that procures their Salvation, and all *in* them to make them lay hold of this Salvation, and so gives the Covenant of Grace, as a Free *Promise*, or Testament to them in his Blood, therefore he is call'd *the* Covenant.

2 Cor. 3. 5.

Isa. 26. 12.

Phil. 2. 13.

Eph. 2. 8.

2 Tim. 1. 1.

1 Cor. 11. 25.

Isa. 55. 3.

49. 8.

Question 11. *How doth Jesus Christ according to the Covenant of Grace, make up the Breach between God and Man?*

Answer. Jesus Christ makes up the Breach between God and Man as his People's *Surety* in their *Stead*; being made

Heb. 7. 22.

2 Cor. 5. 21.

made under the Law, *obeying* it perfectly in his Life, and *dying* the shameful Death of the Cross under the Curse of it, and *rising* again the Third Day, he so fulfill'd *all* Conditions of Life, and Salvation for them.

Gal. 4. 4. 5.
 Matth. 5. 17.
 Gal. 3. 13.
 1 Cor. 15. 3, 4.
 Rom. 1. 3, 4.
 and 4. 25.

Question 12. *Why was it needful that Jesus Christ should be God and Man to make up this Breach?*

Answer. It was needful that Christ should be *Man* to obey the Law, and die under its Curse in the *same* Nature that sinn'd; and also *God*, to support him under, and give a *value* to all that he did, and suffer'd for the Salvation of his People.

Heb. 2. 14, 16.

Acts 20. 28.

Question 13. *Is there no Salvation to be had but by Jesus Christ God-Man?*

Answer. There is *no* Salvation in any other but Jesus Christ; for there is *none* other Name under Heaven given among Men, whereby we must be sav'd but by *Jesus Christ*, who died for our Sins, and rose again for our Justification!

Acts 4. 12.
 Jsa. 43. 11.
 Rom. 4. 25.

The

The Fifth Lesson.

About the Application of Redemption.

Question 1.

WILL Jesus Christ save all Men?
Answer.

Psal. 36. 6. *with*
1 Tim. 4. 10.
Heb. 2. 9, 10.
Rom. 9. 27.
1 Tim. 4. 10.

Jesus Christ so saves *all* the World from present destruction, that *all* men have some *outward* Benefits by his Ransom; but he doth only save a *certain number* from Eternal Death, whence he is said *especially* to save them that believe.

Question 2. *Who are those that Jesus Christ will save from Eternal Death?*

Joh. 17. 2, 9,
12, 19.
Rom. 11. 5, 7.
2 Thess. 2. 11, 14

Answer. Jesus Christ saves none from *Eternal* Death but the *Elect*, those that were chosen to Salvation *before* the foundation of the World; the *rest* die in their Sins and are damn'd, notwithstanding all the *good things* they enjoy in *this life* by Christ.

Luke 16. 25.

Question 3. *How comes it that only some are elected?*

Ephes. 4. 5, 11.
Rom. 9. 11, 10
24.
Prov. 16. 4.
1 Pet. 2. 8, 9.

Answer. It pleas'd God of his own Will, for the manifestation of his glory, to chuse *some* to everlasting life, and to appoint *others* to Condemnation;

no,

nor doth he give any other account of his doings, but his own Sovereign Will and Pleasure.

Question 4. But did not God chuse the Elect for some good he saw in them more than in the rest?

Answer. There could be no more good foreseen in the Creature than what God had fore-ordain; therefore God chose not any for foreseen good in them; but he had Mercy on whom he would have Mercy, and whom he would he harden'd; and who may say to him what doest thou?

Question 5. What difference then is there between the Elect and others, that we may know them?

Answer. There is no difference between the Elect and others by Nature, all are alike the Children of Wrath, under Sin, shut up under the Law till Grace comes; the difference is made only by Grace, which causeth the Elect in the time appointed to believe in Christ, that they may be justified by Faith in him.

Question 6. But if I am Elect, may I live as I will, and yet be saved?

Answer. All that are elected to Salvation, are elected also to the Means of Salvation, being chose to be sav'd by Faith in Christ, and Sanctification

Jude 4.
Job 33. 13

2 Tim. 1. 9.

Rom. 9. 18.
Mark. 20. 15.
Job 9. 12.
40. 2.

Rom. 3. 9.
Gal. 3. 10, 22,
23, 24.

Rom. 11. 5, 6.
1 Cor. 4. 7.
Gal. 1. 15.
2. 16.
3. 24.

2 Thess. 2. 13.
1 Pet. 1. 2.

Rom. 6. 17, 18.
 Acts 15. 9, 11.
 Rom. 8. 1. 14.

of the Spirit unto Obedience, which Faith all the Elect shall have to purifie their hearts, so that they cannot live after the flesh !

Question 7. *Are the Elect then sav'd for their Faith and Obedience ?*

Answer. The Elect are not sav'd for their Faith and Obedience, but they are sav'd thro' Faith in Christ in a way of Obedience unto him; and whosoever live all their life as they list, and do never come to Christ by Faith, nor obey him, they are not elected, and can never be sav'd !

Titus 3. 5.
 Eph. 2. 8, 9, 10.
 Rom. 8. 6, 14.
 Joh. 3. 18, 36.
 10. 3. 26.

Question 8. *But are none sav'd without Faith in Christ ?*

Answer. GOD hath appointed only one way of Salvation, and that is by Grace thro' faith in Jesus Christ; so that without, or before Faith, none are justified; even the Elect that die in their infancy, have Faith wro't in them by the Spirit of GOD, by which they trust in Christ; and all that do not thus come to Christ by true Faith, being already condemn'd, the Wrath of God abideth on them.

Joh. 3. 18, 36.
 Eph. 2. 5. 8.
 Gal. 3. 22, 24.
 Acts 13. 39, 48.
 2 Sam. 12. 23.
 Psal. 22. 9, 10.
 71. 5, 6.
 Luke 1. 37, 44.
 18. 16. 17.
 Rom. 4. 16.
 Heb. 11. 6.

Question 9. *How did the Elect of Old come to Christ before he was born in the World ?*

Answer. The Elect of Old came to Christ, and were sav'd by faith in him.

Heb. 13. 8.
 Acts 15. 9, 11.

even as we are now, only they believ'd in Christ as to come, and we believe in Christ as already come, and now in Heaven at the Right Hand of God, where he ever liveth to make Intercession.

Rom. 3. 22, 25.
4. 22. 24.
Heb. 11. 13.
7. 25.

Question 10. *What is that Faith by which we come to Christ?*

Answer. Faith is a Grace wro't by the Spirit of GOD thro' his Word, in the heart of a poor Sinner, by which the Sinner is made to renounce all Sin, and other Confidence, and to trust to, and rest upon Christ alone for Salvation, whereby he is united to Christ, and so having the Son hath Life.

2 Cor. 4. 17.
Rom. 10. 10, 17
1 Thes. 1. 5, 9.
Phil. 3. 3, 8.
Eph. 1. 13.
3. 17.
Joh. 17. 20, 21.
1 John 5. 12.

Question 11. *What accompanies the Souls believing in Christ?*

Answer. Every one that believes in Christ with the heart is effectually call'd by the Spirit of Christ, and so is by Faith a Child of God, justified, adopted, sanctify'd, and shall be glorify'd.

1 Cor. 1. 9.
2 Tim. 1. 9.
Joh. 1. 12.
Gal. 3. 26.
Rom. 8. 2. 15.
30.

Question 12. *How is a Sinner justify'd, what's Justification?*

Answer. In Justification the Righteousness of Christ is by the Free Grace of God imputed to the believing Sinner, and only to him that believes, for which Suretyship-Righteousness all his Sins are pardon'd, and he is accounted perfectly righteous in the sight of God; and so being justified by faith, hath Peace with GOD.

Rom. 3. 21. to 27
4. 23, 24.
Gal. 2. 16.
3. 22, 23.
Acts 13. 38, 39
2 Cor. 5. 21.
Isa. 60. 21.
Rom. 5. 1. 19.

The

Question 13. *How are we Adopted, what is Adoption?*

Answer. In Adoption GOD by his free Grace takes the poor Sinner out of the sinful Family of the *First Adam*, and makes him a *Child of God*, and *Joint-heir* with Christ the *Second Adam*, his well-beloved Son, in whom he hath a right to all the Priviledges of the Sons of GOD.

Acts 26. 18.
Rom. 8. 15. 17.
Gal. 4. 7.
John 1. 12.
1 John 3. 1, 2.
Matth. 3. 17.
1 Cor. 3. 21, 23

Question 14. *How are Believers sanctified, what is Sanctification?*

Answer. In Sanctification the Holy Spirit restores the Image of GOD in the heart of a poor Sinner, making him a *New Creature*, renewing the Spirit of his Mind in all *Holiness*, and true *Righteousness*, to love God, to repent of all Sin by *loathing* it, and *turning from it*; and with the heart to obey the Law of God.

Rom. 8. 29.
Eph. 4. 23 24.
2 Cor. 5. 17.
1 Joh. 4. 19.
2 Cor. 7. 11.
Ezek. 36. 31.
Rom. 6. 17, 21,
22.

Question 15. *When are Believers glorify'd, what's Glorification?*

Answer. Glorification is the enjoyment of God for ever in Heaven, by them who have in this life done his *holy will*, whose *Souls* at death are made perfect in *Holiness*, and their *bodies* being raised in *Glory* at the great day, both *Soul and Body* shall be united, and they being openly acknowledg'd by Christ, shall be for ever with the Lord!

John 17. 5, 24.
Acts 13. 36.
2 Cor. 5. 1, 2, 4.
Heb. 2. 10.
1 Cor. 15 chap.
Phil. 3. 21.
Matth. 25. 34.
1 Thess. 4. 17.

The Sixth Lesson.

About the Law, and the Gospel.

Question 1.

HOW shall we know the whole Will of God, that we may do it ?

Answer.

The whole Will of God is reveal'd in his written Word, containing all the Books of the *Old and New Testament*; the *Apoprypha* being to be rejected as profane, *Old Wives Fables*, which turn from the Truth: This Word is the perfect Rule, or *Canon*, which is able to make even a Child wise unto Salvation, through Faith which is in Jesus Christ.

Question 2. Why are the Scriptures call'd the *Old and the New Testament* ?

Answer. The Scriptures are call'd the *Old and New Testament*, as they testify of the whole Will of God, both under the *first Testament*, or *Church-Covenant*, before Christ came in the Flesh, and since under the *Second Testament*, or *Church-Covenant*, enlarg'd and renew'd by Christ, wherein,

Hof. 8. 12.

Isa. 8. 20.

Eph. 2. 20.

1 Tim. 4. 7.

Tit. 1. 14.

Gal. 6. 16.

2 Tim. 3. 15.

17.

Isa. 8. 20.

Heb. 8. 6.
to 13.

Col. 2. 14.

Rom. 15. 8.

2 Cor. 3. 7. 11.

1st, All the outward *Levitical* Ceremonies in the *first* Church-Covenant are *taken* away.

2^{dly}, Yet all their Spiritual Privileges in that Covenant are *confirm'd* to us and our *Seed*.

3^{dly}, And glorious *Additions* are made of Gospel-Grace to the Church.

Question 3. *How shall we know the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God?*

Answer. The Scriptures of the *Old* and *New* Testament are *only* known aright to be the Word of God, by the witnessing of the Spirit of God in the Heart, to the Testimony which they give of their heavenly *Majesty*, and undoubted *Divinity*.

Mat. 16. 17.

John 16. 3.

1 John 2. 20.

ch. 5. 6.

Luke 24. 32.

1 Cor. 2. 14.

2 Pet. 1. 19. 21.

Question 4. *How shall we come to understand the Mind of God in his Word?*

Answer. We shall come to a *right* Understanding of the Mind of God in his Word, by diligent *reading*, *hearing*, *searching*, and *meditating* therein, with constant *Prayer* to God for *Wisdom*, *comparing* Scripture with Scripture by the help of the Holy Spirit.

1 Tim. 4. 13. 15.

Acts 37. 11.

John 5. 39.

Pf. 119. 9. 18.

Eph. 1. 17. 18.

1 Cor. 2. 12. 13.

Question 5. *But will not the Learning of Men help to understand the Word of God?*

Answer. A knowledge of the *Hebrew*, and the *Greek* Tongues, in which the Scriptures were *first* written, may be of use to understand the *Letter* of them; but *Philosophy*, and other Learning puffs up, and leads from a dependance on the Spirit, who *only* can open our Understanding in the Scriptures.

Col. 2. 8.
1 Cor. 8. 1, 2.
ch. 1. 19, 21.
ch. 2. 4, 10, 11.
Luke 24. 45.

Question 6. *What are the chief Parts of the Word of God?*

Answer. The whole Word of God may be divided into *Law* and *Gospel*, both which are to be found both in the *Old Testament*, and in the *New*; the *Historical*, and every other part of the Word referring, and having a respect some way or other, either to *Law* or *Gospel*.

Isa. 8. 20.
with 1 Cor. 2. 1.
Luke 24. 27.
with Act. 10. 43
Gal. 3. 8, 10.
Psal. 119. 96.

Question 7. *What is the Law?*

Answer. The *Law* consists of *all* the *Commands* and *Threatnings* in *all* the *Bible*, not only in the *Old Testament*, but in the *New* also, all which are briefly summed up in the *Ten Commandments* given by *Moses*, and explained by *Christ*, his *Apostles*, and *Prophets*.

Psal. 119. 96.
1 Tim. 1. 8, 9, 10.
Gal. 3. 10.
Exod. 20. all.
Mat. 5, 6, and 7 chap.

Question 8. *What is the Summ of the Ten Commandments?*

Answer. The Ten Commandments briefly summ up our Duty to God and Man; all which are contained in these Words of our Saviour, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy Heart, and with all thy Soul, and with all thy Mind, and with all thy Strength; and thou shalt love thy Neighbour as thy self; for Love is the fulfilling of the Law.

Eccles. 12. 13,
Deus. 10. 12,
13.
with *Mat.* 22.
37,
38,
39,
40.
Rom. 13. 10.

Question 9. *How shall we aright understand the Ten Commandments?*

Answer. By knowing these three Things we may come to a good Understanding of the Commands :

Psal. 119. 128.
Deut. 6. 13.
with *Lev.* 26. 1.

Rom. 7. 5, 7,
8, 14.

Mat. 5. 21, 22,
27, 28.

Prov. 24. 9.

Gen. 6. 5.

2 *Cor.* 10. 5.

1 *John* 3. 4.

James 2. 10.

Mat. 23. 23.

1st, That every Command for Duty forbids the contrary Sin, and every Command which forbids Sin, obliges to the contrary Duty.

2. By knowing that every Command reacheth the very Heart, not only forbidding the outward Sin, and commanding outward Obedience, but even the Thoughts and Motions of Sin within us are forbidden, and the Obedience of the Heart is required therein.

3. By considering that any Transgression of the Law, or the least want of whatsoever the Law requires is Sin.

Question

Question 10. Can any Man obey the Commandments perfectly?

Answer. Those that think the Law forbids only outward Sins, and know not the Spirituality of it, they think that they can perform all; but such as feel that the Command reacheth the very Heart, forbidding every sinful Thought, and commanding us even in our Spirit to fear God, they know, and are sure, that no meer Man can perfectly keep the Law.

Question 11. Why then were the Commands given by Moses, if no Man can perfectly obey them?

Answer. Moses did not give the Law as a Covenant of Works, that we should obey it for Life, but as a Schoolmaster for Three Ends:

1st, To shew us our miserable State by our Nature, that we are all Sinners against the holy Law of God.

2nd, To make us despair of Salvation in our selves, and to fly to Christ for help.

3rd, The Law was given as a Rule of Life, to order all our Conversation by at all times.

And this is the only right Use of the Law.

Question.

Mat. 19. 20.

Rom. 7. 9, 10,

11.

Jer. 4. 14.

Prov. 23. 16.

Rom. 3. 10, 20.

Ecl. 7. 20.

Gal. 3. 24.

Rom. 3. 9, 19.

chap. 7. 8.

Rom. 3. 19, 20.

chap. 5. 20.

Psal. 119. 45,

105, 133.

1 Tim. 1. 8.

Luke 2. 10, 11.
Acts 20. 24.
Rom. 10. 15.
 with *Isa.* 52. 7.
Acts 13. 23, 39.
 chap. 3. 18.

Question 12. *What is the Gospel?*
Answer. The Gospel is the Glad Tidings of Salvation by Jesus Christ, containing *all* the free Promises and Invitations of Grace, whether in the *Old Testament*, or in the *New*.

Question 13. *But are not Faith, Repentance, and Love, the Commands of the Gospel?*

Acts 20. 24.
1 Tim. 1. 5, 10.
Psal. 19. 7, 8, 9.
Mat. 22. 37, 40.
Mark 1. 15.
Gal. 3. 24.

Answer. The Gospel *strictly* taken for Glad Tidings of Salvation by Jesus Christ, hath *no* Commands; Faith, Repentance, Love, and *all* Duties whatsoever being commanded by the *Law*; yet in preaching the Gospel these Commands must be urg'd to lead to Christ.

Question 14. *But is not the Gospel a new Law, offering Salvation on the easier Terms of our sincere Obedience?*

Mat. 5. 17, 18, 19, 20.
Luke 16. 17.
Phil. 3. 9.
Gal. 2. 16, 21.

Answer. It is the Heresie of the *Papists*, and their *Followers*, to say, that the good old righteous Law of God is taken away, to make room for a *new Gospel Law* by our sincere Obedience whereto any can be sav'd; for if Righteousness comes by our Obedience to *any* Law, Christ is dead in vain.

Question 15. *But are not Faith, Repentance, and New Obedience reckoned for our Gospel Righteousness.*

Answer. The only Righteousness for which a Sinner is sav'd, is the Righteousness of Christ receiv'd by Faith, and imputed to us; the Act of Faith doth not justify, but Christ the Object by Faith apprehended, and rested upon; and this Faith is ever accompanied with true Repentance, and new Obedience.

Question 16. *Then those that receive the Gospel, are to do good Works?*

Answer. Those that receive the Gospel, should be careful to maintain good Works, done from a Principle of Faith unto God's Glory; but all Commands for all good Works, with all Threatnings for the neglect thereof, are from the Law, which is the Rule of Life to all.

Question 17. *How shall we walk according to this Rule, that we may glorify God?*

Answer. Christ hath set up his Churches, in which we should walk blameless in all the Ordinances and Commands

Gal. 2. 16.

Rom. 3. 20,
21, 22.

Jer. 23. 6.

1 Cor. 1. 30.

2 Cor. 7. 11.

Eph. 4. 22, 24.

Tit. 2. 11, 12.

3. 8, 14.

1 Cor. 10. 31.

1 Tim. 1. 5, 8,
9.

Rom. 7. 12, 22.

1 Cor. 9. 21.

Mat. 5. 19.

1 Pet. 2. 3, 5,

9, 12.

Luke 1. 6.

Mat. 12. 50.

Acts 2. 42.

11. 26.

Gal. 6. 16.

Mal. 4. 4.

2 Cor. 9. 13.

mands of God, not being *partial* in his Law, but esteeming the Commands as highly in the *Old Testament* as in the *New*, both being our Rule; and such only are call'd *Christians* in the Scripture, and to be accounted *visible Believers*, who *profess* their Subjection to Christ in his Church.

The

Answer. More generally, and briefly the Things so to the due Constitution of every Church of Christ, Scripture Faith, Col. 2. 2. d.

The Seventh Lesson.

About Glorifying God in his Churches.

Question 1.

What is the Church of Christ?

Answer.

The Church of Christ is *either*,

1st, The *Catholick Church*, consisting of all, and *only* the *Elect*, which is and will be invisible till the Judgment-Day : Or

2^{dly}, The *visible Church*, which consisted *first* in *Families*, then in the *whole Nation* of the *Jews* ; and since Christ ascended, it consists in *particular Congregations*.

Eph. 1. 22, 23.
5. 25, 27.
2 Thes. 2. 1.

Gen. 17. 7, 10.
Acts 7. 38.
Rev. 1. 11.

Question 2. What makes a Congregation a true Church of Christ?

Answer. More generally, and briefly two Things go to the due Constitution of every Church of Christ, *Scripture Faith*, and

Col. 2. 5, 6.

and Order, without *both* which there can be *no* true Church : But more largely, and *particularly*, to the regular Constitution of every true Church, these

* *Prov. 9. 1.*
These are the
Churches Seven
Pillars.

* Seven things are necessary :

Right { Foundation,
Matter,
Form,
Officers,
Ordinances,
Order, and
Ends.

SECT. I.

Of the Right Foundation of a Church.

Question 3. *What is the Right Foundation of a Church of Christ ?*

Mat. 16. 18.
Isa. 26. 4. Marg.
Eph. 2. 20.
2 Pet. 3. 2.
P s 18. 2 2.
Col. 2. 19.
1 Pet. 2. 4, 5.
1 Cor. 3. 11.

Answer. The right Foundation of every true Church, is the *Person* of Christ, the *Rock* of Ages, on whom the Church is built, according to the *Precepts* and *Practices* of the *Apostles* and *Prophets*; Christ himself being the *only* Support and *Head* thereof, on whom the Faith of the Church stands; and *all* other Foundations of *Money*, *Power*, and *Policy*, not being of God, will fall.

SECT.

SECT. II.

Of the right **Matter** of a Church.

Question 4. *What is the right Matter of a Church of Christ?*

Answer. So many professing Believers of *one* Mind, and *one* Judgment, with their immediate *Infant-Seed*, as can conveniently assemble together to worship in *one* place, and *no* more, are the only right *Matter* of a *visible* Church of God; who loving the *Fathers*, chose their *Children* after them; therefore the *Infant-Seed*, with Believers, stand in a Relation to God in his Church; for of *such* is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Rom. 10. 9, 10.
1 Cor. 1. 10.
7. 14.
Jer. 32. 39.
Deut. 29. 10,
12.
1 Cor. 14. 23.
and 11. 20.
Deut. 4. 37.
Psal. 102. 27,
28.
Ezek. 16. 20,
21.
Luke 18. 16.

SECT. III.

Of the Right **Form** of a Church.

Quest. 5. *What is the right Form of a Church of Christ?*

Answer. The only right *forming* of a Church is by *Covenant*, in which all do give up themselves and their *Children* to the Lord, and to each other by his Will, to be the *Lord's People*, and to walk after him in *all* his ways; by such a *Covenant* were

Psal. 50. 5.
Deut. 29. 1, 9,
15.
2 Cor. 8. 5. with
2 Chron. 23. 16.
and 34. 31.

Neb. 10. 1. 29.
with *Ast* 11. 23.
Jer. 50. 5.
with *Ast* 9. 26.
Heb. 8. 6. 13.
Eph. 4. 3. with
Ezek. 20. 37.
Neb. 9. 38.
Ezek. 43. 11.

were the Churches both in the *Old* and in the *New* Testament form'd, call'd in God's Word the *First* and *Second* Covenant, and this being the *Bond* of the Churches Peace, it is most expedient to have *written* in our sight, that we may keep it, and do it.

SECT. IV.

Of the right Officers of a Church.

Quest. 6. *Who are the right Officers of a Church of Christ?*

Phil. 1. 1.

Answer. Christ hath appointed for each Church only *two* sorts of Officers,

A { Pastor, and
Deacon.

Eph. 4. 11.
1 Pet. 5. 2. 3.
Acts 20. 28.
1 Cor. 12. 28.

1st, A Pastor, or Bishop, not to Lord over, but to feed, teach, and rule that Flock to which he is related: assisted in his Work by *Elders*, if need be.

Acts 6. 2, 3.
1 Tim. 3. all.

2^d, Deacons to take Care of the outward Affairs of the Church.

Acts 14. 23.

These Officers to be *chosen* by the Church from among themselves, and by them to be *ordain'd*, or set a part to their Work,

Work, with *Fasting* and *Praying*; without *laying on of Hands*; that *Ceremony* being *no* more to be us'd, than *washing of Feet*, or *anointing with Oyl*; because the glorious *Gifts* that once attended it, are long since ceas'd.

Profit not,
1 Cor. 12. 7.
Edifice not.
1 Cor. 14. 12, 26

S E C T. V.

Of the Right Ordinances of a Church.

Question 7. *What are the Right Ordinances of a Church of Christ?*

Answer. The Right Ordinances for the *Worship of GOD* in the Church are Eight; *Four* being more *general*, to be dispens'd every *first* day of the *Week*, in which all may join; And *four* more *special*, to be confin'd to, or kept within the *pale of the Church*, and dispens'd according to the *Months*.

Typify'd
Ezek. 40. 39,
40, 41, 42.
chap. 46. 3.
Ezek. 47. 12.

Question 8. *What are the Four general Ordinances in which all may join?*

Answer. The Four general Ordinances are

**Praise,
Prayer,
Preaching, And
Contribution.**

Psal. 150. 6.
Eph. 5. 19.
Col. 3. 16.

Psal. 65. 2.
Rom. 8. 26.
Matth. 6. 7, 9.

2 Tim. 4. 2.
Acts 28. 23.

1 Cor. 16. 1, 3.
Heb. 13. 16.

Matth. 7. 6.
Cant. 4. 12.
Matth. 16. 19.
Eph. 4. 11, 16.
typify'd
Eze. 46. 21, 24
Acts 20. 28.
1 Pet. 5. 2.

1st. **Praise**, By singing *only* the *Psalms, Hymns* and *Songs* indited by the *Spirit*, and contain'd in the *Scripture*.

2. **Prayer** By the help of the *Spirit*, without *humane forms*, according to the *Pattern* given by our Lord to his Disciples.

3. **Preaching** By *rightly* dividing, expounding and applying the *Scriptures* of Truth.

4. **Contribution** By *laying* by in Store, as God prospers *each Week*, to be Communicated at the Publick Gatherings.

Question 9. *What are the Four special Ordinances confin'd only to the Church?*

Answer. The four *special Ordinances* confin'd by Christ *within* the Pale of his Church, are the Two **Seals** call'd Sacraments; and the Two **Keys** of the Church; the *Seals* to be dispens'd to each Church by their *own Pastour only*, and the *Keys* by their *own Pastour or Elders*.

Question

Question 10. *What are the Seals of the Church?*

Answer. The Seals of the Church are Two

**Baptism,
And the
Lords Supper.**

1st. **Baptism** for every Believer or Church-Member, and their immediate *infant-seed*, by *sprinkling* or *pouring* Water only on the Face, in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Act. 2. 39,41.
chap. 16. 15,33.
Isa. 44. 3.
Rev. 14. 1.
Matth. 28. 19.
wish *Isa.* 52. 15.
1Cor. 10. 1,2.

2. The **Lords Supper**, for such only in a Church as can examine themselves, wherein *Bread* and *Wine* is receiv'd, according to the *Institution* of Christ by all the Church sitting together in the *Evening* time.

1Cor. 11. *chap.* 23^d verse to the end.

Question 11. *How are Baptism and the Lord's Supper call'd Seals?*

Answer. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Seals of the Covenant, (that is, of the Church-Covenant) as they Seal to all an outward relation in the Church; tho' to the *Elett* only they Seal Salvation:

1Cor. 10. 2,3,4

Gal. 3. 27.
1 Cor. 1. 2.
 & 7. 14.
with 12. 12.
Heb. 12. 24.
Ezek. 36. 25.
1 Pet. 3. 21.

1 Cor. 10. 16, 17
and 11. 26.

Luke 22. 19,
20.

Matth. 18. 18.

Acts 2. 42.
Isa. 26. 2.
Jer. 51. 10.
Psal. 40. 9, 10.
 66. 16.
1 Cor. 14. 12.
 29, 31-34.

1st. **Baptism** Seals to *Church-Members*, and their Seed an outward relation to Christ in the *Church Covenant*; and to the *Elect* also their saving-relation to Christ by his Blood sprinkled, And his Spirit pour'd upon them :

2. The **Lords Supper** seals to *Church-Members*, their outward Relation to Christ in the Church; tho' only the *Elect* are seal'd to Salvation therein, by Christ's Body broken, and his Blood shed for them, trusted to by Faith, and signify'd by the Bread and Wine.

Question 12. *What are the Keys of the Church?*

Answer. The *Keys* committed by Christ to his Church are two,

Fellowship, And Censure.

1st, **Fellowship**, in Church-Meetings, is the *Key* for opening the Door of the Church, to let in the *Rigorous* that keep the Truth, in which their *Experiences* are given in to the Church, and the Brethren's Gifts are also exercis'd in *Praying*, and *Prophecyng*.

2. **Cen.**

2. **Censure** is the *Key* to shut the Door of the Church upon Offenders, By **Admonition**, By **Withdrawing**, or By **Cutting off** in Excommunication, as the *Offence* doth require.

Matth. 18. 18.
1 *Thess. 5. 14.*
2 *Thess. 3. 6.*
1 *Cor. 5. 4. 5.*
Psal. 149. 6. 9.
Jude 22. 23.

S E C T. VI.

Of the Right Order of a Church.

Question 13. *What is the right Order of a Church of Christ?*

Answer. All the right Order of a Church must be taken from the written Word of God, both from the Old Testament and New, which together are the compleat Rule, and Canon, whereby all things must be order'd in the Church; and by this Rule, or Canon, of the Prophets, and Apostles, the old Testament and the new, the whole Israel of God must walk, as ever they'd have the Peace of God with them, therefore all Orders, Rules, and Canons given by Popes, Councils, or any other whatsoever, are *confusion*, if not according to this Word.

Psal. 119. 128.
Gal. 6. 16.
with Mal. 4. 6.
2 *Tim. 3. 15, 17.*
Ephes. 2. 20.
2 *Pet. 3. 2.*
Gal. 6. 16.
Isa. 8. 20.
Matth. 15. 9.
Zech. 7. 12.
Jer. 8. 8, 9.

S E C T. VII.

Of the right **Ends** of a Church.

Question 14. *What are the right Ends of a Church of Christ?*

Answer. The *Glory* of God, and the mutual *Edification* of his Saints, without any regard to human Interest, are the only right *Ends* all true Churches should set before them; to advance which, 'tis the Duty of every one that hath Faith in the *Heart*, openly to profess a willing Subjection to Christ in his Church, to coming under the *Bond* of the Church-Covenant, they take the Father's *Mark* in the Forehead, and such only are *visible* Christians, for he that is not *for* Christ by open Profession, is *against* him.

Question 15. *What time hath God allotted to his Church for worshipping him?*

Answer. The Lord hath appointed in his word one Day in seven for his solemn Service: which Day before Christ's Resurrection was the *last* Day of the Week, but is since by the Lord of the Sabbath chang'd to the *First*-Day, in Scripture call'd the *Lord's-Day*, because on that Day our Lord *rested* from his work of Redemption, therefore all Christians should keep the *Lords-Day* as a holy *rest* from Sin, by attending on Christ in his publick Worship, and *resting* in his Grace.

Question

Ephes. 3. 21.

1 Cor. 14. 26.

Col. 2. 3, 4.

Phi. 2. 5, 10, 11

Psal. 110. 3.

Isa. 45. 23.

with Rom. 14.

11.

Ezek. 20. 37.

Rev. 14. 1.

1 John 4. 3.

Matth. 12. 30.

Gen. 2. 3.

Exod. 20. 9, 10.

Matth. 12. 8.

Joh. 20. 19, 20.

Acts 20. 7.

Rev. 1. 10.

Psal. 118. 24.

Heb. 4. 7. 11.

typify'd.

Ezek. 43. 27.

and Numb. 29.

35.

Question 16. *But is there no other time for worshipping God in publick?*

Answer. The Lord hath commanded us to *redeem* the time, and to wait on him out of Season as well as in Season; therefore every good Christian should improve all Opportunities on any Day of the Week, for *hearing* the Word of God, and *worshipping* him in the *Assemblies* of his Saints.

Question 17. *But is a Christian only to worship God in publick?*

Answer. GOD hath made it the Duty of all Men to *study* his holy Word, and to *pray* unto him in *secret*; as well as to *worship* him in *publick*; Therefore *Masters* of Families, and *Parents* should instruct their *Children* and *Servants* in the holy Fear of God, praying *daily* with their Families; for the *Curse* of God resteth upon all those Families that Call not upon his Name.

Question 18. *And shall all in Christ's visible Church on Earth, be glorify'd in Heaven?*

Answer. There are in Christ's visible Church Two sorts of Worshippers:

1st. Such as Worship God *hypocritically* in the outward only, who shall be cast down into *Hell* as *Deceivers* of others, and their own *Souls*;

2^d. Such as Worship God *uprightly*, with the *heart*, as well as *outwardly*, these shall be *glorify'd* with God for ever in Heaven.

Ephes. 5. 16.
2 Tim. 4. 2.
as Acts 13.
42 Margent.
Prov. 8. 34.
Psal. 84. 4, 10.

John 5. 39.
Mat. 6. 5, 6, 7.
Gen. 18. 19.
Jos. 24. 15.
Eph. 6. 4; 18.
figur'd
1 Chr. 16. 40, 43.
Jer. 10. 25.

Eze. 33. 31, 33.
Matth. 24. 51.

John 4. 24.
Matth. 25. 46.
John 17. 24.

Que-

Question 19. *But when will the difference between the good and the bad appear?*

2 Tim. 4. 1.
Dan. 2. 44.
Rev. 21. 10.
20. 2.
Mal. 3. 17, 18.
4. 1. 3.
Rev. 20. 12,
13, 14.
2 Cor. 5. 10.
Math. 13. 41,
43.
25. 31. to end.

Answer. The Word of God declares that in the *latter day* Christ shall have a glorious Kingdom, call'd the *New Jerusalem*, when Satan being Chain'd up a *Thousand Years*, we shall discern between the *precious* and the *vile*; and all the Dead being rais'd in the day of *Judgment* shall be Sentenc'd by him; the *wicked* into Everlasting Fire, with the *Devil* and his *Angels*; but the *righteous* he will receive into *Glory* with himself for ever, *A M E N!*

I John 5. 21.

Little Children keep your selves from Idols. *Amen!*

2, 3 John 4.

I have no greater Joy, than to hear that my Children walk in Truth as We have receiv'd a Commandment from the Father.

Jude 24, 25.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the Presence of his Glory with exceeding Joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be Glory, and Majesty, Dominion, and Power, both now and ever. *Amen.*

F I N I S.

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